THE SPRING KINGDOM

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THE SPRING KINGDOM

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SÖZ VE BESTE
ŞEYBANUR MEMİŞ

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&

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FOREWORD

Understanding the emotions and bond between a mother and her child is never easy. It is both magnificent and challenging at the same time. This is exactly the case with Alex and his mother. They deeply love each other, yet their personalities, passions, desires, and motivations differ. This is, in fact, a natural part of human relationships.

Although this story has a heartwarming ending, it highlights the importance of mutual understanding between parents and children, respecting each other's decisions, and accepting one another as they are—even when it is difficult. In real life, children learn this through the guidance of adults.

The Spring Kingdom is not only a play for children but also a guiding narrative for parents. It intricately weaves themes of friendship, care, trust, anxiety, sadness, loss, and forgiveness in a pedagogically sound manner. I truly believe that this play will serve as a valuable resource for both parents and children who encounter these themes and challenges in their daily lives.

Dr. Emine Ayyıldız

Licensed Psychologist
Early Childhood Education Specialist

INTRODUCTION

The Spring Kingdom is an interactive story play designed to spark children's imagination while blending educational values. This pedagogically approved play aims to teach essential concepts such as exploration, friendship, and responsibility in a fun and engaging way.

This is not just a play performed by actors on stage—it is an interactive experience where the audience becomes part of the adventure. Children actively participate in the storyline by making choices, engaging with the characters, and influencing the flow of events. In this way, they are not just spectators but also heroes of the story.

With its engaging dialogues, heartwarming themes of friendship, and educational content, *The Spring Kingdom* offers a unique experience that nurtures creativity while fostering empathy, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in children.

Are you ready? Let the adventure begin!

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

SHELBY the turtle, storyteller

CASSANDRA, queen of the Spring Kingdom

ALEX, son to Cassandra, prince of the Spring Kingdom

LEO the lion, best friend to Alex

BINKY the bunny, best friend to Foxy

FOXY the fox, best friend to Binky

BEATRICE, orange peddler

SHEIBA, court singer

Members of the audience

THE SPRING KINGDOM

ACT I.

SCENE I. *The Spring Kingdom. The courtyard.*

Enter SHELBY THE TURTLE

Shelby the turtle. Hello everyone, my name is Shelby, Shelby the turtle. I am going to tell you a story about a magical kingdom. In a far faraway land, there was a Spring Kingdom ruled by a magical Queen. Her name was Cassandra. She controlled the weather with her magical powers. And she loved flowers. So, it was always spring. Everybody in the kingdom was very happy.

Enter QUEEN CASSANDRA

Shelby the turtle. And this queen had a son named Alex.

Enter ALEX

Shelby the turtle. And this fine gentleman had a best friend, Leo the Lion.

Enter LEO THE LION

(Alex runs to Leo. They hug.)

Leo the lion. Here, I made a necklace for you. Look, I have the same one.

Alex. My best friend! I will never take this off.

Shelby the turtle. But Alex and Leo were not the only best friends in the forest. There was Binky the Bunny and Foxy the Fox.

Enter BINKY THE BUNNY *and* FOXY THE FOX

(They hug.)

Shelby the turtle. And the last character in our story comes from the Kingdom Next-Door. Her name is Beatrice. She is a salesperson. She sells oranges which she picks out of her garden. But she is, no, she was also an evil person.

Enter BEATRICE

(-with a basket full of oranges. Leo roars in dislike.)

Shelby the turtle. Nobody liked her.

(Alex, impressed by Leo's roar, copies him)

Alex. Can you teach me how to roar like that?

Leo the Lion. Of course! Repeat after me.

(Both roar. Both not good at it.)

Alex. It is so hard.

Shelby the Turtle's story book.

Leo the lion. No, it is not.

(Walks center-stage and asks the audience)

Leo the lion. Is it really hard? Can you help me teach Alex to roar? Repeat after me.

(Leo roars and so does everyone.)

Leo the lion. Try again! Alex can't hear you! … Great job!

Shelby the turtle. Enough with the roars. I have a story to tell. Shew... Shew... Our story started on a sunny day, when Alex wanted to go beyond the forest.

Exit LEO THE LION, BINKY THE BUNNY, FOXY THE FOX *and* SHELBY THE TURTLE

Alex. But mom! I want to see the Kingdom Next-Door.

Queen Cassandra. For the last time Alex, it is dangerous out there. You are safe in this forest.

Alex. I want to see new places and meet new people.

Queen Cassandra. And you will when you get older. You are too young.

Enter SHELBY THE TURTLE

Shelby the turtle. My Queen! We need your help!

Queen Cassandra. What happened?

Shelby the turtle. There is a fire at the castle. We need you to make it rain.

Queen Cassandra. Alright let's go.

(To Alex)

Queen Cassandra. You stay right here. Don't go anywhere.

Alex. Again? Ugh- okay I will stay right here.

Exit QUEEN CASSANDRA *and* SHELBY THE TURTLE

Alex. Everyone's gone. Why do I have to stay here? If I wait and ask her again, she will say "No Alex! It is not safe Alex!". Maybe, If I go now, maybe I can come back before my mother does.

(Looks around and checks if anybody is around. Quietly walks towards the forest.)

Enter QUEEN CASSANDRA

Queen Cassandra. Alex, I'm back. ... Alex? Alex! Where are you? ALEEEX!!!

Exit QUEEN CASSANDRA

END ACT I. SCENE I.

SCENE II. *The Spring Kingdom. The forest.*

Enter SHELBY THE TURTLE

(Shelby at stage-left, Queen Cassandra center-stage. Spring turns into fall because the queen is very sad. Everyone is searching for Alex in the forest.)

Shelby the turtle. As soon as Alex was gone, Queen Cassandra became very sad. She became so sad that she used her magic and turned the Spring Kingdom into the Fall Kingdom. No one could find Alex, and everyone was unhappy at the Fall Kingdom. Where was Alex? No one knew where he was. They kept on looking for him. Everyone missed prince Alex very much. Meanwhile, Binky saw Alex in her dream. Alex was at the Kingdom Next-Door. So, after feeling sad for a long time, Foxy and Binky decided to search for Alex.

Exit SHELBY THE TURTLE, *Enter* BINKY THE BUNNY *and* FOXY THE FOX

(Binky has two shovels. Gives one to Foxy.)

Binky the Bunny. I'm so tired of feeling sad. I miss Alex a lot. I saw Alex in my dream, and I want to go and look for him. What do you think?

Foxy the Fox. I don’t know Binky. The queen said no one can leave the kingdom.

Enter LEO THE LION

Leo the Lion. What are you two doing?

Foxy the Fox. Ummm... nothing.

(Foxy tries to hide the shovel.)

Binky the Bunny. I saw Alex in my dream. So, we are going to dig a tunnel to go to the Kingdom Next-Door. We are going to look for Alex. Do you want to come?

Leo the Lion. Oh my God! I saw him in my dream too. I was going to dig a tunnel as well. He is my best friend you know ...

Binky the Bunny. Great, start digging then. Here, take my shovel.

Foxy the Fox. Guys, I don’t know why, but I am scared.

Binky the Bunny. Why?

Foxy the Fox. I think it is because we are doing something secret for the first time.

Leo the Lion. You know, it’s okay to be scared. I’m scared too.

Binky the Bunny. Okay, look at me. Let’s hold hands and take a deep breath ... yes ... one more ... and one more ...

(To the audience)

Binky the Bunny. Can you show Leo and Foxy how it's done? Breath in ... Breath out ... Good job friends!

(Back to Foxy and Leo.)

Binky the Bunny. Feeling better?

(Both Foxy and Leo nod.)

Binky the Bunny. Okay then, Let's go!

(Binky digs with her paws while the other two uses the shovels.)

Binky the Bunny. I am doing all the work. I am so tired. We need another bunny to help us go faster.

(To the audience)

Binky the Bunny. Who wants to help us?

Enter two MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

(Binky gives them bunny hats and shows them how to dig. They help digging for a while.)

Binky the Bunny. Thank you for all the help guys.

Exit two MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Leo the Lion. Yaaay!!! We can finally go through.

Foxy the Fox. Let's go!

(They all go through the tunnel.)

—

Binky the Bunny, Leo the Lion, and Foxy the Fox looking down the tunnel.

END ACT I. SCENE II.

ACT II.

SCENE I. *The Kingdom Next-Door. Street market.*

Enter SHELBY THE TURTLE

Shelby the turtle. Something very interesting happens at the Kingdom Next-Door. A woman finds Alex and makes him work for her at her garden and at the street market for years.

Exit SHELBY THE TURTLE, *Enter* ALEX *and* BEATRICE

Alex. I am so tired. Isn't it enough for today?

Beatrice. Only I decide when it is enough.

Alex. But I have been working for hours. I am so hungry.

Beatrice. You will eat when we get home. Now, stop talking and do your work!

Alex. (*Aside*) I wish I didn’t have to work for such an evil person.

Enter SHELBY THE TURTLE

Shelby the turtle. After Alex got lost in the forest, he found himself at the Kingdom Next-Door. He was walking around and suddenly

something scary happened. Beatrice tricked Alex and took him away. The evil woman made him work very hard as you can see...

(Alex drops oranges from the cart. Shelby runs to help him.)

Shelby the turtle. While Alex was suffering, his friends Leo, Binky and Foxy go through the tunnel and end up at the Kingdom Next-Door.

Exit SHELBY THE TURTLE, *Enter* LEO THE LION, BINKY THE BUNNY *and* FOXY THE FOX

Binky the bunny. Wow! I didn't know that this kingdom was as big as ours.

Leo the lion. You are right. It's amazing!

Foxy the fox. Can we go back now?

Binky the bunny. No! We came all the way out here. We need to find Alex! I know he is here somewhere!

Leo the lion. Oh look! There is a street market over there.

Binky the Bunny. So cool. Let's go and check it out.

(Beatrice sees them. Alex arranges the oranges)

Beatrice. (Aside) I did not see them here before. They must be new, and they look very young too. Maybe I can make them work for me.

(Beatrice approaches and talks to Binky, Foxy, and Leo)

Leo the Lion, Foxy the Fox, Binky the Bunny, at the street market with Beatrice.

Beatrice. Hello children, you must be new here. I'm Beatrice, everyone loves me around here. Would you like to come to my stand and help me?

Foxy the fox. Yes, of course we will help.

Leo the lion. Well, you can't find anyone stronger than me for this job.

Binky the bunny. Are you sure? I think we can find lions stronger than you.

(To the audience)

Binky the bunny. Are there any other lions stronger than Leo?

Enter two MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

(Binky gives them lion hats. They help Beatrice carry her bags.)

Binky the bunny. Look. They helped her more than you. So, they are both stronger than you.

Leo the lion. Oh yes, they are.

Foxy the fox. Thank you so much for your help, guys.

Exit two MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Beatrice. Oh, such helpful children you are. I wish you could all stay with me.

Foxy the fox. Thank you but we have a home. We just want to find our friend.

Beatrice. Will you stay with me if I give you some oranges?

(To Alex afar.)

Beatrice. Alex! Bring me some oranges!

(As Alex carries the oranges, he trips and falls. His necklace breaks off.)

Beatrice. He can't do anything right. That's why I need you to stay here.

(Leo goes to help Alex. They pick up the oranges together. Leo picks the necklace off the ground and looks at it carefully. Then he looks at Alex and his own necklace. To be sure he repeats this a couple of times. Alex is unrecognizable because he is so thin. Leo realizes that he really is Alex.)

Leo the lion. Alex! I missed you so much.

(Leo hugs Alex with joy.)

Alex. Leo? LEO! Is that really you?

Binky the bunny and Foxy the fox ALEX! Oh my GOD! Alex!

(Binky and Foxy join the hug. They start jumping up and down as they hug.)

Leo the Lion hands over Alex's necklace which he finds on the ground.

Beatrice. Stop this! What's happening?

(Beatrice tries to separate them.)

Beatrice. Alex! How do you know them? Who are they?

Alex. They are my friends. My best friends!!!

(To Leo, Binky, and Foxy)

Alex. Please get me out of here. She is making me work for her.

Leo the lion. What! How can she do such a bad thing? I will show her!

Foxy the fox. Leo, calm down. We must get Alex out of here first.

Binky the bunny. Foxy is right ... for once.

(Beatrice pointing at Alex, shouts.)

Beatrice. You are not going anywhere.

(Beatrice pointing at the others, shouts.)

Beatrice. And you can't take him from me. He is mine!

Binky the bunny. We are not staying here.

Foxy the fox. Enough! He is our friend, and we are taking him home.

Leo the lion. Climb on my shoulders Alex, let's go.

(Leo, Binky, Foxy and Alex run towards the tunnel as Beatrice screams.)

Beatrice. You are not going anywhere!

(Beatrice starts chasing them but stumbles over an orange)

Beatrice. Oh! My back! My knees! Alex! ALEEEX! DON'T GOOO!!!

Exit ALEX, LEO THE LION, FOXY THE FOX *and* BINKY THE BUNNY

END ACT II. SCENE I.

SCENE II. *The Spring Kingdom. The Forest.*

Enter QUEEN CASSANDRA *and* SHELBY THE TURTLE

Shelby the turtle. My Queen, your kingdom needs you. You have work to do.

Queen Cassandra. I know Shelby but I miss my son ... I miss Alex so much ...

Shelby the turtle. I understand, believe me everyone misses him.

(The queen hears a sound coming from the underground)

Queen Cassandra. Did you hear that?

Shelby the turtle. Hear what?

Queen Cassandra. The sound came from underneath.

(The queen hears it again)

Queen Cassandra. Did you hear it this time?

(Shelby, to the audience.)

Queen Cassandra. Let's be very quiet ... shhhhhhh! Do you hear anything?

(Leo, Binky, Foxy and Alex come out of the tunnel. Leo runs to the queen.)

Leo the lion. My queen, my queen we found him! We found Alex!

Queen Cassandra. What? Alex? Where is he?

Alex. Mom... I'm - I'm here.

(Queen Cassandra and Alex run to each other and hug. The moment they hug The Fall Kingdom turns back into The Spring Kingdom.)

Binky the bunny. Aww ...

Foxy the fox. So cute.

(Leo looks around and sees the change.)

Leo the lion. Wow! Everything is back to normal.

Queen Cassandra. Where were you? I missed you so much. From now on I will listen to you and try to understand your needs. And please share the things you want to do with me, so we can have a conversation about it. Please don't you EVER run away again!

Alex. I'm very sorry mommy. I'm so sorry. From now on I will always talk to you before I do anything.

Leo the lion. Welcome back to your kingdom.

Queen Cassandra. Welcome home my dear.

Exit QUEEN CASSANDRA, ALEX, BINKY THE BUNNY, FOXY THE FOX, LEO THE LION

Shelby the turtle. After Queen Cassandra gets her son back, the Fall Kingdom transforms into the Spring Kingdom. Now, Alex knows what is dangerous and what is not. The queen and Alex have learned a great lesson. And that is: 'They should always listen to each other'.

(Asks the audience)

Shelby the turtle. Do you agree?

(A 'Yes' from the audience is expected here.)

Shelby the turtle. Great! Everybody is so happy that Alex came, they have a big party and invite everyone. Now, who wants to join the

party? We have the queen's singer Sheiba who will sing for us... So, let's dance!

Enter SHEIBA

(Sheiba brings her ukulele)

(All characters in the play come on stage as she starts to sing.)

(As the song starts, Beatrice comes forward with a case of oranges to show remorse. She asks for forgiveness. Cassandra does not want to forgive her, but she sees that Alex is willing. Thus, she forgives Beatrice. This part has no dialogue but is explained by actions.)

Shelby the turtle. Now we need an elephant. Who wants to be an elephant?

Queen Cassandra. I am looking for a panda, can you guys help me find one?

Leo the lion. Where are my two lion friends?

(Leo roars.)

Binky the bunny. And where are my bunny friends?

(Animal hats are distributed to the on-stage and off-stage audience. Off-stage audience is encouraged to dance in their seats. They all celebrate the return of Alex by dancing to Sheiba's song.)

END ACT II. SCENE II.

Celebration of Alex's return to the kingdom.

THE SPRING KINGDOM Lyrics

In the Fall Kingdom

Leaves were all brown

Shelby the Turtle told

A tale of the sad crown

The magic of the Queen

Made flowers bloom

But when Alex was lost

It brought in gloom

CHORUS (X2)

Binky the Bunny, Leo the Lion

Shelby the Turtle, and Foxy the Fox

Friends of Alex, and his mommy too

Waiting for the Kingdom

To become true

Beatrice was tricky

With oranges to sell

She took Alex away(!)

With all her spell

Friends dug a tunnel

Found him at last

Rescued Alex(!)

The danger passed

CHORUS (X2)

Binky the Bunny, Leo the Lion

Shelby the Turtle, and Foxy the Fox

Friends of Alex and his mommy too

Happily, united... come sing with us too...

THE END